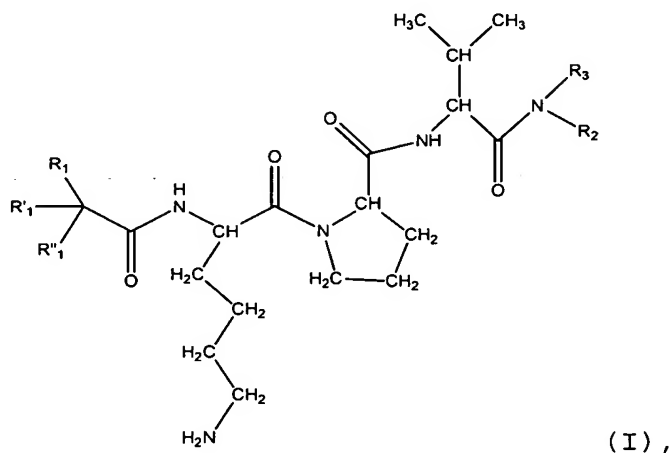


IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for the synthesis of a KPV tripeptide diamide derivative represented by the following formula (I)



or for a salt thereof, independent of stereochemistry wherein:

a)  $R_1$ ,  $R'_1$  and  $R''_1$  represent, independently from each other, a hydrogen atom or

- a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$  alkyl moiety, optionally interrupted by a heteroatom,

-  $C_4$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl moiety,

- a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$  polyfluoroalkyl or perfluoroalkyl moiety,

- an aryl moiety optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or more linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl moieties,

- an aralkyl moiety,

- or  $R_1$  and  $R'_1$  could form with  $C(R''_1)$  a saturated ring with from 3 to 7 atoms, optionally substituted by one or more linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl moieties and/or optionally containing a heteroatom,

with the proviso that the  $R_1(R'_1)(R''_1)CO$  group does not represent an amino acid residue or a peptide;

b)  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  represent, independently from each other, a hydrogen atom or represent

- a linear or branched  $C_1-C_{24}$  alkyl moiety, optionally interrupted by a heteroatom,

- a  $C_4-C_{10}$  cycloalkyl moiety,

- a linear or branched  $C_1-C_{22}$  polyfluoroalkyl or perfluoroalkyl moiety,

- an aryl moiety optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or one or more linear or branched  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl moieties,

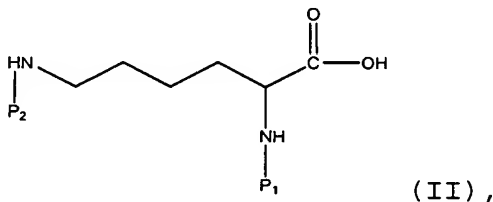
- an aralkyl moiety,

- or  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  could form with the nitrogen atom a saturated ring with from 5 or 6 atoms optionally substituted by one or more linear or branched  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl moieties, said saturated ring optionally containing a heteroatom ,

with the proviso that the  $N(R_2)(R_3)$  group does not represent an amino acid or a peptide;

said method comprising:

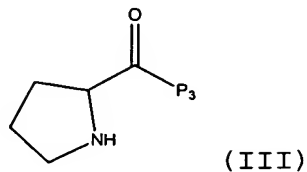
a) reacting a lysine diprotected residue having the following formula (II):



optionally salified by a mineral or organic base,

wherein  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ , are different and each represent independently from one another a protective group,

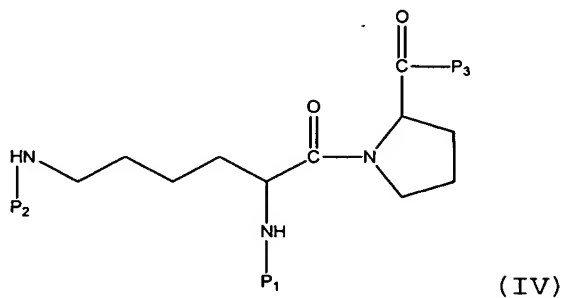
with a ~~Proline~~proline residue having the following formula (III):



optionally salified by a mineral or organic acid,

wherein  $P_3$  represents a protective group differing from any of the  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  protective groups, or wherein  $P_3$  represents a hydroxyl group,

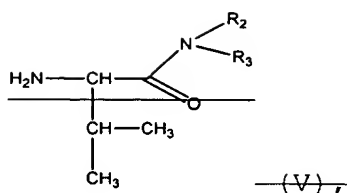
in the presence of an activation reagent or a coupling reagent in a solvent, so as to obtain the following compound having the formula (IV):



wherein  $P_1$ ,  $P_2$  and  $P_3$  have the above-mentioned meanings,

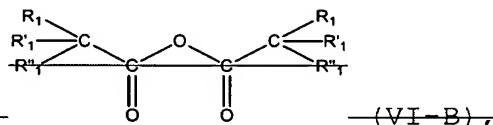
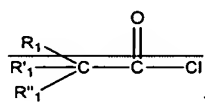
b) ~~and, in any order,~~

~~1) coupling a valine compound having the following formula (V) on the C-terminal function of the Proline residue of the compound with formula (IV) when  $P_3$  represents OH, :~~

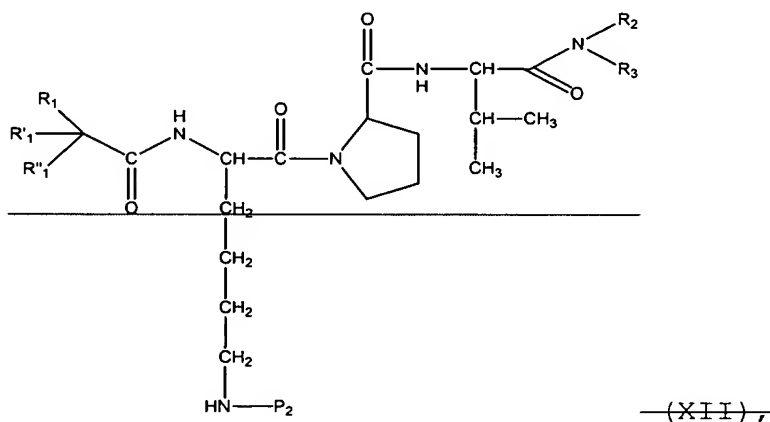


and wherein  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  have the same meanings as hereinabove,  
and removing the  $P_1$  protective group,

2) amidating the  $NH_2(\alpha)$  group in a N-terminal position  
of the lysine residue by a compound having the following formula  
(VI-A) or (VI-B):

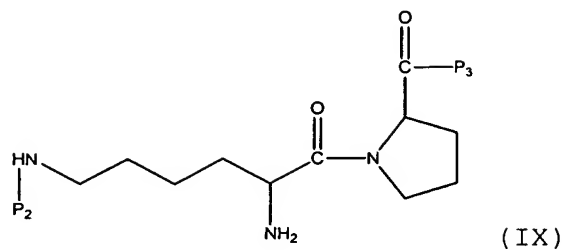


so as to obtain the following compound having the formula  
(XII):

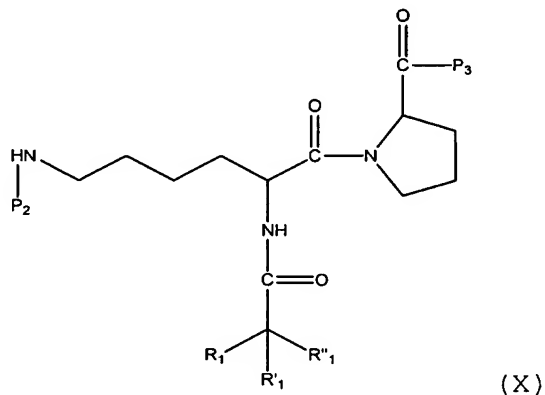
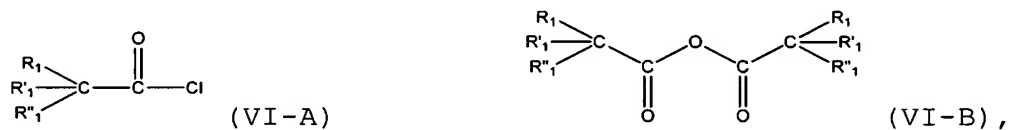


wherein  $P_2$ ,  $R_1$ ,  $R'_1$ ,  $R''_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  have the same meaning as  
hereinabove;

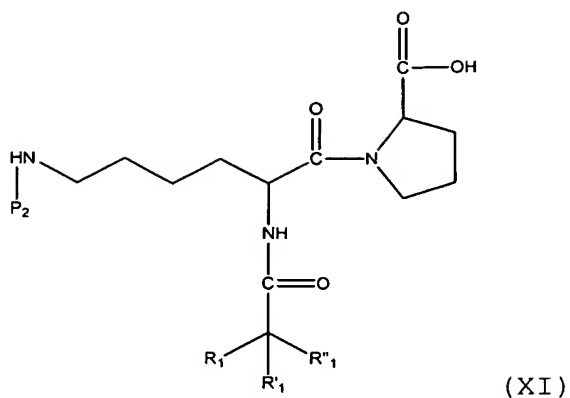
1) removing the  $P_1$  protective group of the compound of  
formula (IV) to obtain the compound of formula (IX):



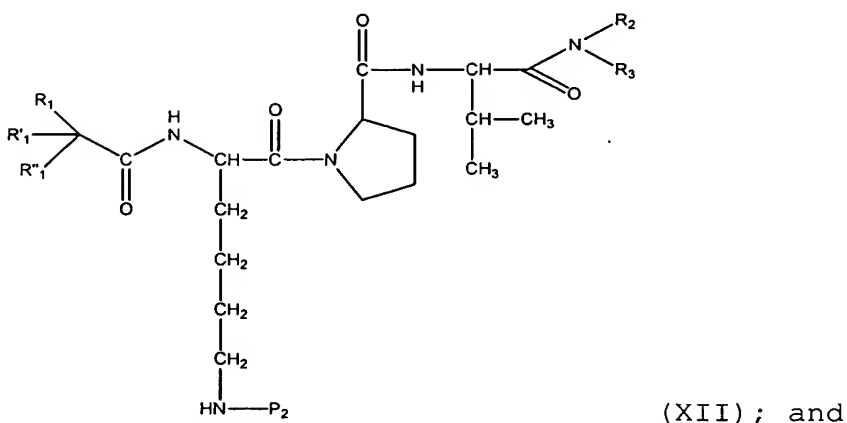
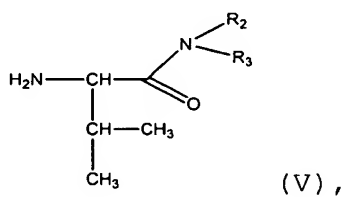
2) amidating the  $\text{NH}_2(\alpha)$  group of the lysine residue of the compound of the formula (IX) with a compound having formula (VI-A) or a compound having formula (VI-B) to obtain the compound of formula (X):



3) removing the  $\text{P}_3$  protective group from the compound of formula (X) to obtain the compound of formula (XI):



4) coupling the compound of formula (XI) with the valine compound of formula (V), or the mineral or organic salt thereof, to form the compound of formula (XII):



c) removing the P<sub>2</sub> protective group from the compound having of the formula (XII) so as to obtain the compound having of the formula (I), optionally under the form of a mineral or organic salt or the mineral or organic salt thereof.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the compound having the formula (I) is a salt selected amongst the hydrochlorides, hydrobromides, sulphates, acetates, citrates, tartrates, lactates, phosphates, hydrogenophosphates, propionates and succinates.

3. (currently a mended) The method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the ~~Lysine~~lysine, ~~Proline~~proline or ~~Valine~~valine amino acid residues are any of the stereoisomers of such residues.

4. (original) The method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the salt is obtained during step c) through introducing the corresponding acid.

5. (original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the acid is acetic acid, hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulphuric acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, phosphoric acid, hydrogenophosphoric acid, propionic acid or succinic acid.

6. (original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the acid is acetic or hydrochloric acid.

7. (previously presented) The method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  protective groups represent, independently from each other, Adoc (1-adamantyloxycarbonyl) BOC (t-butyloxycarbonyl), 2-bromo-Z (2-bromo-benzyloxycarbonyl), 2-chloro-Z (2-chloro-benzyloxycarbonyl), Fmoc (9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl), Formyl, Nicotinoyl, 4-nitro-Z (4-nitro-benzyloxycarbonyl), Tfa (trifluoroacetyl), Tos (p-toluenesulfonyl), Z(benzyloxycarbonyl) or Adpoc (1-(adamantyl)-1-methylethoxycarbonyl).

8. (previously presented) The method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  protective groups are selected such as to be removed respectively under distinct operating conditions.

9. (previously presented) The method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the compound having the formula (II) is salified by an organic base.

10. (original) The method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the compound having the formula (III) is salified by a mineral or an organic acid.

11. (previously presented) A method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein in step a), the peptide coupling reaction occurs in the presence of an activation or a coupling reagent selected amongst carbodiimides, water-soluble carbodiimides, phosphonium salts, PyBOP ((benzotriazol-1-yloxy)tripyrrolidino-phosphonium hexafluorophosphate), PyBROP (bromotripyrrolidino-phosphonium hexafluorophosphate), PyCloP (chlorotripyrrolidino-phosphonium hexafluorophosphate), or also by means of reagents selected amongst PyClU (chloro-N,N,N',N'-bis(tetramethylene)formamidinium hexafluoro-phosphate), N-hydroxysuccinimide, EEDQ (1-ethoxycarbonyl-2-ethoxy-1,2-dihydroquinolin), CDI (carbonyldiimidazole), or chloroformates

Claims 12 - 14 (cancelled)

15. (original) The method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein in the compound having the formula (II), the P<sub>1</sub> protective group is t-butyloxycarbonyl (BOC) and the P<sub>2</sub> protective group is benzyloxycarbonyl (Z).

16. (currently amended) The method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein in the compound of the formula (III), the P<sub>3</sub> protective group is the OBzl ~~benzyl~~-ester group.

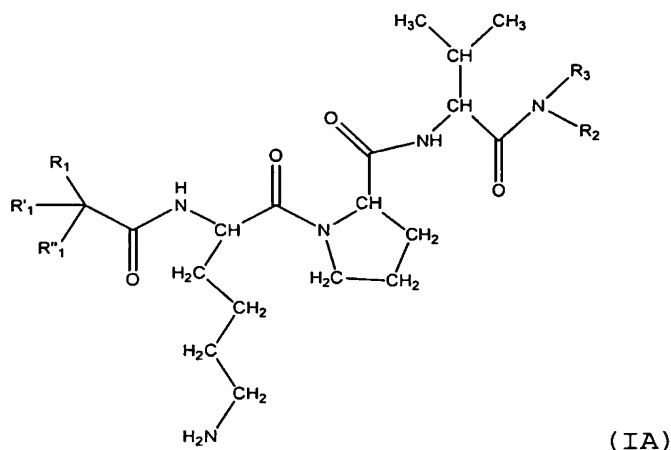
17. (previously presented) The method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein in the compound having the formula (I), the R<sub>1</sub>, R'<sub>1</sub> and R''<sub>1</sub> groups represent each a hydrogen atom.



18. (original) The method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein in the compound having the formula (I), the  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  groups represent each a hydrogen atom.

19. (currently amended) The method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the  $P_1$  protective group is t-butyloxycarbonyl (BOC), the  $P_2$  protective group is benzyloxycarbonyl (Z) and the  $P_3$  protective group is OBzl benzyl-ester.

20. (withdrawn) A KPV tripeptide diamide derivative or salt thereof represented by the following formula (IA):



wherein:

a)  $R_1$ ,  $R'_1$  and  $R''_1$  represent, independently from each other, a hydrogen atom or

- a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$  alkyl moiety, optionally interrupted by a heteroatom,

-  $C_4$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl moiety,

- a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$  polyfluoroalkyl or perfluoroalkyl moiety,

- an aryl moiety optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or one or more linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl moieties,

- an aralkyl moiety,

- or  $R_1$  and  $R'_1$  could form with  $C(R''_1)$  a saturated ring with from 3 to 7 atoms, optionally substituted by one or more linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl moieties and/or optionally containing a heteroatom,

- hydrogen,

with the proviso that the  $R_1(R'_1)(R''_1)CO$  group does not represent an amino acid residue or a peptide residue with at least one of  $R_1$ ,  $R'_1$ ,  $R''_1$  being different from hydrogen.

b)  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  represent, independently from each other, a hydrogen atom or represent

- a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{24}$  alkyl moiety, optionally interrupted by a heteroatom,

- a  $C_4$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl moiety,

- a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$  polyfluoroalkyl or perfluoroalkyl moiety,

- an aryl moiety optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, or one or more linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl moieties,

- an aralkyl moiety,

- or  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  could form with the nitrogen atom a saturated ring with from 5 or 6 atoms optionally substituted by one or more linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl moieties, said saturated ring optionally containing a heteroatom, with at least one of the residues  $R_2$  or  $R_3$  being different from hydrogen,

with the proviso that the  $N(R_2)(R_3)$  group does not represent an amino acid or a peptide residue.

21. (withdrawn) The KPV tripeptide diamide derivative according to claim 20, wherein the salt is selected amongst hydrochlorides, hydrobromides, sulphates, acetates, citrates, tartrates, lactates, phosphates, hydrogenophosphates, propionates and succinates.

22. (withdrawn) The KPV tripeptide diamide derivate according to claims 20 or 21, wherein the Lysine, Proline or

Valine amino acid residues are any of the stereoisomers of each of such residues.

23. (withdrawn) A composition comprising: a KPV tripeptide diamide derivative or salt thereof according to claims 20 or 21 in a physiologically acceptable medium.

24. (withdrawn) The composition according to claim 23, wherein the physiologically acceptable medium is a cosmetic medium and the KPV tripeptide diamide derivative or salt thereof is present in an amount ranging from  $10^{-8}$  to  $10^{-3}$  g/100g.

25. (withdrawn) The composition according to claim 23, wherein the physiologically acceptable medium is a pharmaceutical medium and the KPV tripeptide diamide derivative is present in an amount greater than  $5 \cdot 10^{-4}$  g/100g.

26. (cancelled)

27. (original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the organic base is an organic amine.

28. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of deprotecting P3 prior to coupling said valine compound of Formula (V) to said compound of Formula (IV).

29. (withdrawn) A method of treating dry or sensitive skin comprising: obtaining a quantity of a composition of claim 23 and applying said composition to the dry or sensitive skin of a patient.

30. (withdrawn) A method of treating dry or sensitive skin comprising: obtaining a quantity of a composition of claim 24 and applying said composition to the dry or sensitive skin of a patient.

31. (withdrawn) A method of treating dry or sensitive skin comprising: obtaining a quantity of a composition of claim 25 and applying said composition to the dry or sensitive skin of a patient.

32. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R'_1$  or  $R''_1$  are a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$  alkyl moiety interrupted by a heteroatom, said heteroatom is selected from O, N, S or Si.

33. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein when  $R_1$  and  $R'_1$  form with  $C(R''_1)$  a saturated ring containing a heteroatom, said heteroatom is O, S or N.

34. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein when  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  is a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$  alkyl moiety interrupted by a heteroatom, said heteroatom is selected from O, N, S or Si.

35. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein when  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  form with a nitrogen atom a saturated ring containing a heteroatom, said heteroatom is O, S or N.

36. (withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein said organic base in an organic amine.

37. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein when  $R_1$ ,  $R'_1$  or  $R''_1$  are an aryl moiety optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, such halogen is Cl, F, Br or I.

38. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein when  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  form an aryl moiety optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, such halogen is Cl, F, Br or I.

39. (withdrawn) The KPV tripeptide diamide derivative or salt thereof of claim 20 wherein, when  $R_1$ ,  $R'_1$  and  $R''_1$  represent a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$  alkyl moiety interrupted by a heteroatom, said heteroatom is O, N, S or Si.

40. (withdrawn) The KPV tripeptide diamide derivative or salt thereof of claim 20 wherein, when  $R_1$ ,  $R'_1$  and  $R''_1$  represent an aryl moiety optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, such halogen is Cl, F, Br or I.

41. (withdrawn) The KPV tripeptide diamide derivative or salt thereof of claim 20 wherein, when  $R_1$  and  $R'_1$  form with  $C(R''_1)$  a saturated ring containing a heteroatom, said heteroatom is O, S or N.

42. (withdrawn) The KPV tripeptide diamide derivative or salt thereof of claim 20 wherein, when  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  represent a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$  alkyl moiety interrupted by a heteroatom, said heteroatom is O, N, S or Si.

43. (withdrawn) The KPV tripeptide diamide derivative or salt thereof of claim 20 wherein, when  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  represent an aryl moiety optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, such halogen is Cl, F, Br or I.

44. (withdrawn) The KPV tripeptide diamide derivative or salt thereof of claim 20 wherein, when  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  form with a nitrogen atom a saturated ring containing a heteroatom, said heteroatom is O, S or N.

45. (withdrawn) A method of making a composition useful for treating dry or sensitive skin comprising obtaining a quantity of a KPV tripeptide diamide derivative or salt thereof as claimed in claim 20 and mixing same in a physiologically acceptable medium so as to produce a dermatological composition.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, which does not comprise a final purification step.